

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Production

1. Approximately 90 per cent of all coal¹ from the Rasa mines in Istria² is exported to Italy, Western Germany, France, Greece, and Turkey.
2. The following figures indicate daily production by three eight-hour shifts in various areas and subsections of the Rasa coal mines:

a. Rasa Proper

- (1) Section 20. 240-250 metric tons;
- (2) Section 11. 200 metric tons; and
- (3) Section 12. 150 metric tons.

b. Podlabin

- (1) Section 3A. 300 metric tons;
- (2) Section 3. 300 metric tons; and
- (3) Section 4. 200 metric tons.

c. Strmac

- (1) Entire area. 30 metric tons.

d. Podpican

- (1) Entire area. 40 metric tons.

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e. Separapija

- (1) Area I. approximately 150 metric tons of inferior quality; and
- (2) Area II approximately 300 metric tons of inferior quality.

Workers

- 3. There are approximately 6,000 workers employed in the Rasa coal mines. There are very few experienced miners as a large percentage of the workers have come from other parts of Yugoslavia because of increasing unemployment in their home regions.
- 4. Few of the workers remain at Rasa very long because they believe that the whole mine will cave in at some time in the future as a result of neglect by mine managers and the Government.
- 5. Over 50 accidents occur every day in the mines. The workers appear to be tired and demoralized, and ten per cent of them are suffering from tuberculosis. The workers are oppressed politically and neither the unions nor the directors do anything for their recreation or education..

Wages and Prices

- 6. A miner's salary is approximately 11,000 dinars per month. An ordinary worker receives 7,000 dinars per month. If a worker wants to leave the mines, he is permitted to do so, but his last month's salary is withheld even if he has worked for most of the month.
- 7. The workers' mess costs 4,000 dinars per month. Housing is approximately 500 dinars per month. A shirt costs from 2,000 to 5,000 dinars, and a meter of English woolen cloth costs at least 10,000 dinars.

Mine Profits

- 8. The 1952 balance sheet of the Rasa coal mines showed a 120,000,000 dinar surplus. Many of the employees felt that this should have been distributed to the workers as a bonus, but the fund was presented to the Yugoslav army to increase the defensive forces. The workers protested, but to no avail.

Transportation Vehicles

- 9. There are very few transportation vehicles at the mines, and these are in poor condition. The workers come to the mines from distant towns in open trucks, even during the winter.
- 10. At one time, the mine directors, the labor unions, and the Yugoslav Communist Party organized a Sunday of voluntary labor with the promise that the proceeds would be used to buy buses for the workers. On that day, production in the mines reached a total of 1,700 metric tons. No buses, however, were ever purchased.

Personnel

- 11. The Secretary of the Yugoslav Communist Party for the entire Rasa basin area is Ivan (or Josip) Sain³ who was a Communist Partisan beginning in 1940. He is approximately 35 years old, calm, and relatively kind to the workers. On

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occasion, he has shown opposition to the regime but is generally circumspect in his conduct. The workers estimate his salary at 50,000 dinars per month.

12. The following individuals at Rasa are known to be ardent Titoists:

- a. Ivan Marlin. approximately 30 years old. He is a foreman and Secretary of the Podlabin section of the Yugoslav Communist Party;
- b. Jakov Vozila 30-35 years old. He is an ex-Partisan and Secretary of the Rasa section of the Yugoslav Communist Party. The fingers of his right hand are missing. He is called the "dictator" of the mines, and all the workers are afraid of him. He has consideration only for those who are members of the Yugoslav Communist Party. The workers estimate his salary at 30,000 dinars per month;
- c. Ivo Komaz. approximately 40 years old. He is an engineer and is technical chief of the mines. He was formerly director. The workers estimate his salary at 40,000 dinars per month; and
- d. Mario Kokot. approximately 30 years old. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Podlabin section of the Yugoslav Communist Party. In temperament, he resembles Vozila. The workers estimate his salary at 30,000 dinars per month.

13. The following individuals at Rasa have been expelled from the Yugoslav Communist Party:

- a. Dinko Faraguna 28-30 years old. He was expelled from the Party for pro-Cominform activity. He was formerly a foreman in Section 20 and is now a group leader of workers in Section 11. He has approximately 50 workers under his direction. He is calm, and talks very little;
- b. Rabaz (fnu). he was expelled from the Party for nonpayment of dues. He has been demoted from foreman to simple worker. He is well liked by his fellow workers;
- c. Milan Zvonarek approximately 22 years old. He is a worker in Section 23 and was expelled from the Party in February 1953 for attempting to escape. There is a rumor among the miners, however, which attributes his expulsion to criticisms of Tito's policy which they say he voiced during Party section meetings; and
- d. Ludvik Zrinjski. a former student, now a worker in Section 11. In May 1952, he organized four other members of the Party, including Milan Dominic, with the intention of escaping to Italy. They were first imprisoned at Podlabin and then transferred to a prison on Via Roma in Rijeka. Zrinjski was sentenced to two years in prison and the others received lesser terms.

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Yugoslav Communist Party Recruitment

14. Leaders of the Party like Ivan Marlin and Jakov Vozila try to recruit the Rasa workers for membership in the Party. Both the skilled miners and the simple workers often refuse. Marlin transfers those who refuse to a part of the mines known as the "death section" where the work is extremely perilous.

25X1 [REDACTED] Comments

- 25X1 1. [REDACTED] 30 per cent of the total extraction was used by the Yugoslav railways, and that they would use an increasing amount of coal in the future.

25X1 2. [REDACTED]

- 25X1 3. [REDACTED] the director of the mines is Saina (fnu), a Serbian who is approximately 35 years old. He was formerly head of the Mining Syndicate. This report stated that he is not qualified for his position and was appointed through political contacts.

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